THE MERIDIAN
SWAVESEY

No. 218 February/March 2026

EDITORIAL

First of all, we wish to thank all those of you who contributed to the GoFundme appeal, the money raised has enabled us to continue printing the magazine

You will notice that we have removed the colour cover to reduce printing costs and we now believe that even with reduced income from advertisers the magazine can continue to be printed and distributed to every household in the village.

Please continue to send us your articles and event posters and provided there is sufficient space we will include them in the next available issue.

The next deadline will be **February 20** for the April/May issue
Alan Morris (Deputy Editor)

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Major Events List

This list is intended to avoid major events clashing on the same day. It will only work if we are advised of all such events, so please let us know as soon as you can confirm the details.

A form is available at the back of this magazine. We will list them in this section of the Magazine and also on our website at:- www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk

Saturday 21 March	Swavesey Camera Club	Spring Exhibition 10am - 4pm in Swavesey Memorial Hall - Contact Simon Shore Mob. 07711 485114 Email simonshore99@gtmail.com
Saturday 28 March	St Andrews	Easter Fair with Easter Egg Tombola and Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday 16 May	St Andrews	10:00am: Plant Sale
Saturday 27 June	St Andrews	2:00 – 4:00pm: Teddy Bear Zip Wire
Saturday 27 June	Community Orchard	Swavesey Community Orchard BioBlitz
Friday 10 July	The Pantaloons Outdoor Theatre	Sherlock Homes and the Hound of the Baskervilles 7pm at Market St Green - Contact Simon Shore Mob. 07711 485114 Email simonshore99@gtmail.com

Club and Society Information

We try to use up to date information for the listings of clubs, societies and various service providers. Despite trawling through them all now and again we do rely on being informed of any changes to contact personnel, email/phone details, change of venue or club/society no longer operating. If you spot any errors, please send update information to editor@swaveseymeridian.org.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February		
Friday 6	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Friday 13	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
Friday 20	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Monday 23	Parish Council	Full Council Meeting
Friday 27	Refuse Collection	Blue Bin Collection
March		
Friday 6	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Friday 13	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
Friday 20	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Saturday 21	Swavesey Camera Club	Spring Exhibition 10am - 4pm in Swavesey Memorial Hall - Contact Simon Shore Mob. 07711 485114 Email simonshore99@gtmail.com
Monday 23	Parish Council	Full Council Meeting
Friday 27	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
Saturday 28	St Andrews	Easter Fair with Easter Egg Tombola and Easter Egg Hunt
Monday 30	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection (Note Monday)

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CLUB REPORTS

Swavesey Camera Club
Photographic Print Exhibition

Kestrel Hunting (Penny Reeves)

Saturday 21st March 2026
10 am to 4 pm
Swavesey Memorial Hall
CB24 4QU

Once again, we will print our very best photographs of the year and present them at our Annual Exhibition which takes place at the Memorial Hall in Swavesey on Sat 21st March.

We invite you to visit and vote for your favourite, there will be more than 200 prints to choose from and a wide range of different genres.

You can also enjoy coffee, tea and some excellent home-made cakes throughout the day.

There will be cards and prints available to purchase.

An online version of the exhibition is available to view on our website from 21st March.

Our Camera Club meets weekly on a Thursday evening at Swavesey Village College. We are a friendly club with an excellent programme of inspiring talks, events, coaching, socials and competitions and we have seen a surge of new members joining us in the last few years. We cater for all ages and photographic abilities and are always keen to welcome and encourage new members.

Please see our website swaveseycameraclub.co.uk for further details.

At the time of writing we find ourselves at the midway point of the season.

For our mini league teams that may mean a change of opponents through the second half of the season, as the FA review the results and try to balance the league. This ensures no teams are consistently winning by large margins and probably more importantly, no teams are losing regularly by large margins.

Whilst winning and losing is an important element of playing sport, it's important our younger players are not put off participating in football and continue to focus on their development, which is the most important thing for our mini league players.

A mixed bag across our various Colts boys teams, with none of our teams running away with any leagues and thankfully none of our teams propping up any of their respective leagues.

Our U17s girls are having a great season. The disappointment of seeing our U17 boys team fold before the season kicked off is more than made up for by the continuing success of our U17 girls.

Our U15 girls are continuing where they left off last season and currently find themselves top of their league. It's very tight at the top and there is a lot of football still to be played but we wish them and all of our teams a great second half of the season.

After a very tricky start to the season where it was touch and go whether they would have to fold or not, we're delighted to see our Ladies team playing regularly and not regularly cancelling matches due to lack of players, which was a significant fear for us.

Our U5/6 training is developing wonderfully with more players signing up for the fun Saturday morning training sessions.

Whilst most of our teams enjoy decent squad sizes, we are still actively recruiting for our U14, Ladies and U5/6 teams. For more details and where to sign up, please visit our website - Swavesey Spartans Football Club

We remain very frustrated that the village green remains unplayable and is likely to remain so for much, if not all, of the season. We continue to work with the Parish Council and Swavesey Institute to assess options.

We remain grateful to Swavesey Village College, Elsworth Sports Ground and Fen Drayton Lions FC for assisting us with our home fixtures.

As previously mentioned, we will be needing a new club treasurer at the end of this season. Quite simply, the club cannot function without this crucial role. Please contact us if you're interested in supporting your local club.

To end on a positive. Everyone associated with Swavesey Spartans were very pleased to see our U14 coach Jamie Panter win the Male Pathway coach of the year for 2024. The awards ceremony was postponed last year and Jamie was invited along this year to be presented with his well deserved award!

Well done Jamie!

One Club. All Voices. United Through Football.

Swavesey Community **BioBlitz**

Swavesey Community Orchard : Saturday 27th June 2026

What is a Bioblitz—come and join us

A BioBlitz is an event in which teams of volunteer members of the community - families, school groups, Scouts, Guides and any informal groups work together to find and identify as many species of plants, animals, fungi, and other organisms as possible.
You can become a wildlife explorer for a day and discover what's living right on your doorstep by taking part

iNaturalist

You don't need to be an expert. You will use the free iNaturalist app on your mobiles to capture and Identify your finds. The data will be collated on a central iNaturalist database for the Orchard. To help with tricky identifications we will have a small team of experts on hand to help guide you.

Activities and habitats will include

Early morning dawn chorus
Pond dipping
Moth overnight traps
Hedgerows
Orchard fruit trees
Grasses and flowers in the orchard
Evening bat and bird walk

For more information on how you can be part of this event please contact Glyn Jones gj@2gsc.net 07977 907622

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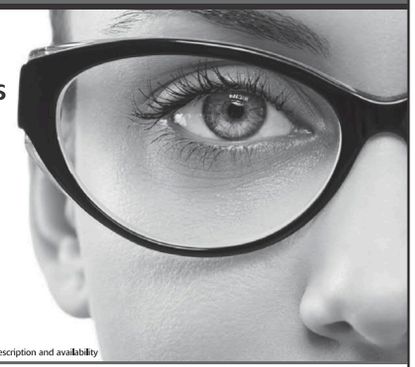

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Swavesey WI News

Swavesey WI would like to to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy 2026.

Our WI members were delighted to donate £1000 to Over Day Care Centre recently.

Much fundraising took place in 2025 which included a very successful Coffee Morning, various raffles, teas in the summer and a very successful Cake Stall in Market Street in the Autumn. We would like to thank everyone who has supported our efforts and enabled us to support the Over Day Centre in their valuable place in our Community.

If you would like to join our active WI or know more about what we get up to, please contact Glesny Sheppard 01954 201731 or Deirdre Burgess 01954 230897.

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Swavesey & District History Society

November meeting. About 40 attended a talk by Mike Muncaster from Kimbolton entitled “An Elizabethan Grammar School”. During the reign of Elizabeth I it was recognised that an educated elite was necessary as servants of the Queen to govern the administration of the country, similar to today’s civil service. Grammar schools had started during the reign of King Edward VI then in Elizabeth’s reign the state “language” was confirmed as protestant England and the deliberate aim of grammar schools was to develop Protestantism. Many philanthropists contributed including Richard Robins of Godmanchester who in 1558 willed that enough of his lands as necessary were to be sold to raise £20 per annum with which a Free Grammar School was to be endowed in Godmanchester under the supervision of a Cambridge College to be appointed by the Bishop of Lincoln. At Ashbourne in Derbyshire townsfolk petitioned Queen Elizabeth I for a school on the grounds that “for lack of education, the inhabitants were given over to wickedness and vices such as idleness, swearing, drunkenness, whoredom and such like". Building work commenced in 1586. Before Tudor times schools were run by the church and, slowly, boys started to go to “Grammar” schools which were created to teach the classical languages, Latin and Greek, which were necessary for university studies and religious scholarship.

Ashby de la Zouch grammar school was founded in 1567 by Henry Hastings, 3rd Earl of Huntingdon. A document written at the beginning setting out how the school was to be run still exists. During the reign of Elizabeth II our speaker joined the school as a boarder aged eleven in 1957 and was a wayward pupil. He likened the school to a prison. Aged 12 and homesick, he and some friends ran away one night but it rained hard so they sheltered under bushes in the school grounds and gave themselves up in the morning. During his “O- level” year he did much of his homework in The Plough, a local pub. In 1965 he visited a girl in town but was late leaving so he stole a bicycle from outside the police station. He was shouted at from inside so he dropped the bike, jumped over a wall and ran. He had a mutual dislike for the headmaster and on the last day of one term he was deliberately late for breakfast and reported himself to the headmaster to provoke unpleasantness. He was most disappointed when he was simply, and loudly, shouted at to get out! He kept a diary for 6½ of his years there then during Covid lockdown he transcribed his diaries into a book which will be released in 2026 entitled “The reluctant schoolboy”, or similar.

December meeting. Despite a mild evening, only 22 turned out for the AGM because of competing activities, particularly in Over. After the formal proceedings two members gave short presentations.

Firstly, Carole Pook from Swavesey gave a talk explaining the link with Cambridge of the freed slave Olaudah Equiano. A bridge over the River Cam in Chesterton was named Equiano bridge in 2022.

Olaudah Equiano, was born in Africa in about 1745. He became a prominent abolitionist and writer in Britain. He died in London on March 31 1797, aged 52. His marriage in Soham in 1792 to Susannah Cullen who came from Fordham connected him to Cambridgeshire. They lived in Soham and two girls were born there, Anna Maria on 16 October 1793 and Joanna on 11 April 1795. After Susannah died in March 1796 aged 34 and Olaudah died in 1797 the two girls were brought up in Chesterton. Anna Maria died there in July 1797, soon after her father. She was buried in the parish churchyard of St Andrew’s, Chesterton where a memorial plaque and her grave can be seen. Joanna married in 1821, died in March 1857 aged 61, and was buried in Stoke Newington. A stained-glass window depicting the family is due to be installed in St. Andrew’s Church Chesterton.

Secondly Mike Day from Over spoke about his early life growing up on the family farm at Beaumont cum Moze near Hamford Water on the Essex coast. The area known as Beaumont after the 12th century was previously known as ‘Fulepit’ – Foul Pit, suggesting it was a bit smelly. The historic church and the old post office, now with a modern roof in place of thatch, are still there, but not the school attended by his sister. The 19th century Beaumont Cut canal, built to serve trade has remains of a quay and a lime kiln. The disused quay was built with stones from London Bridge in 1832.

The family farm that Mike worked on in younger days grew cereals, potatoes, sugar beet and sprouts - which were very painful to harvest in winter weather. There was an orchard and they kept pigs, cattle and chickens. Mike witnessed the severe flooding in his area on 31 January 1953 when the predicted very high tide, driven by a storm from the north, invaded the coast from Lincolnshire to Kent.

His parents thought that his elder brother taking over the family farm was enough, so he joined NIAB, continuing a connection with agriculture. Hamford Water featured in Arthur Ransome’s “Secret Water” in the Swallows and Amazons series.

Next meetings: -

24 February. The Real Basil Brown: From Rickinghall to Sutton Hoo. Sarah Doig.

17 March. The Old Vicarage, Grantchester. Peter Tatham.

Selwyn

Selwyn’s Easy “Pop Groups Over the Decades” Quiz. Part 8

Solve the mainly cryptic clues below, e.g., Liverpudlian insects 3, 7 The Beatles - we said it was easy! Note, where a group is called “The Something”, sometimes “The” is dropped.

Sierra, golf aid, lucky bingo number	1, 4, 1
Munsters character & recluses	7, 7
Lad in his own country	7
Remote, idyllic hideaways	7, 3
Female, chess piece, seeds	6, 6, 3, 3, 4
Short expression denoting surprise	1-2
Climbing plant & length measurement	3, 3, 6
Soft-feel fabric on Metro	6, 11
Senior nuns with cutting instrument	7, 7
Part of a Churchill speech about giving your all	5, 5, 1, 5

You will find the answers to this puzzle on page 16

MISCELLANY

Swavesey Library has a new home!

Do come and visit our lovely new library. Follow the signs at the front of Swavesey Village College by the mini roundabout.

Opening times are:

Tuesday afternoons 3.30pm - 5.30pm,
Wednesday evenings 5pm – 7pm and
Saturday mornings 10 – 12 noon.

New for 2026 –

- ***Theme months***
- ***Lego morning – Saturday 21st February***
- ***Easter event – Saturday 4th April***

Hundreds of childrens' (picture books – young adults) books to borrow.

Order and return books from any Cambridgeshire Library.

Not a member? It's easy to join online or at the library. Swavesey Library is run by volunteers. Could you spare a couple of hours a month to join the team?
We look forward to welcoming you and your family.

For further information –
www.swavesey-pc.gov.uk/community/swavesey-your-library/
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Answers to Selwyn's "Pop Groups Over the Decades" on page 13

Sierra, golf aid, lucky bingo number	1, 4, 1	S Club 7
Munsters character & recluses	7, 7	Herman's Hermits
Lad in his own country	7	Boyzone
Remote, idyllic hideaways	7, 3	Shangri Las
Female, chess piece, seeds	6, 6, 3, 3, 4	Gladys Knight and the Pips
Short expression denoting surprise	1-2	A-ha
Climbing plant & length measurement	3, 3, 6	The Ivy League
Soft-feel fabric on Metro	6, 11	Velvet Underground
Senior nuns with cutting instrument	7, 7	Scissor Sisters
Part of a Churchill speech about giving your all	5, 5, 1, 5	Blood, Sweat & Tears

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Please use the side door to enter, the front and far side doors have a ramp for wheelchair users and pushchairs, and there is a carpet and toys for pre-school age customers.

Compass Café is run as a community event, a place to meet and chat. Your hosts are a group from one of:
Bethel Baptist Church, Girlguiding Units in Swavesey,
Swavesey Primary School PTA, St Andrew's Church
and Swavesey Women's Institute.

When there is a 5th Thursday in the month other groups are invited to run the café to fundraise. Please get in touch with Sue Ellington if you would like to know more.
sue.ellington@virgin.net or phone 07774 146331
Future 5th Thursday dates available in 2026: 30th Jul, 29th Oct

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Thank you so much to everyone who took part in the Poppy Appeal in Swavesey this year.

If you drove through Fen Drayton during the Poppy Appeal, you may have noticed big lamp-post poppies this year. I'd love to have these in Swavesey as well, next year, so if you're a local business and would be interested in sponsoring a poppy or two, please do let me know. And if you'd be able to put them up and take them down, I'd also love to hear from you.

So - how much did we raise this year?

- Swavesey businesses and clubs: £631.22
- QR codes (across Fen Drayton and Swavesey) £159

Particular thanks to Swavesey Primary School who collected £156.31, and to the Newsagents who collected £310.05!

If anyone is interested in helping next year, I'd love to hear from you – it's not too early to let me know! gonecompletelybonkers@gmail.com

Thank you!
Jo Hitchins
(Poppy Appeal Organiser, Fen Drayton & Swavesey)

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Out of hours111

Website:- www.riverportmedicalpractice.nhs.uk/location/fenstanton/

See our website at www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk for the full and latest surgery newsletters. Ed

December Update

OWLS
Community Car Scheme

OWLS provided almost 1,000 journeys in 2025 to people living in Over, Willingham, Longstanton and Swavesey who need to attend medical appointments or make other necessary journeys, but are unable to access other means of transport.

We urgently need more drivers to meet increasing demand. Are you retired or about to start retirement or perhaps working part-time? Drivers do not have to commit to regular days/ times but being able to do one journey a week is really helpful.

Drivers use their own cars and receive 45p a mile in total. A DBS (free) check is required and additional insurance cover is provided by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

The OWLS mobile is manned by a rota of volunteer coordinators who have the phone for a fortnight at a time. We would also like to have an additional coordinator to help with this.

Can you help maintain this very important Community service?

PLEASE ring the scheme's mobile number: 07505 254363 for an informal chat, without commitment.

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Breakfast Club 7.30 am - 8.55 am

3+ year olds to Year 6 children: £6.50 per child per session

After School Club 3.15 pm to 6.00 pm

For Reception to Year 6 children: £13 per child, family rate £12 per child

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11am – 12pm
The BIG Orchestra!
An opportunity for children, parents, adults & community in an orchestra together.
Everyone welcome... beginners to experienced players!
Swavesey Music School
admin@swaveseymusic.co.uk
Swavesey Village College CB24 4RS

Volunteer School Appeals Panel Member

- Are you interested in Primary and Secondary School Education?
- Do you have excellent listening skills?
- Are you able to put people at ease?
- Are you able to make balanced decisions?

If you have answered yes to any of the above, please consider applying to be become a Volunteer School Appeals Panel Member

What is the role?

All parents or carers have the right to make an appeal to an independent appeal panel if their child is not offered a place at their preferred school.

The role of the panel is to decide whether a child, who has been refused a place by an admission authority, should be given a place.

Appellants often become clearer about the options open to them during a hearing and the reasons why a place was not offered at a preferred school.

The appeal panel is independent of the local authority and their decision is binding on all parties, unless overturned by the courts.

Why be a panel member?

For some people the work is helpful for their career, providing them with relevant work experience.

For others, it is rewarding to give people and school representatives the chance to state their case.

What will I be doing?

- You will be sitting on independent admission appeal panels
- Ensuring that parents feel they have had a fair and independent hearing, have been given every opportunity to put their case and have been taken seriously
- Volunteers must be able to listen to two sides of a case and weigh up evidence objectively and impartially.

What skills or experience do I need?

The following qualities will help you with the role of member of the Panel:

Ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of people

- Ability to read, assess and analyse information and identify key points
- Ability to listen to key information
- Ability to ask questions to obtain and clarify information
- Ability to obtain and weigh up evidence to reach a reasoned and evidence-based decision
- Willingness to work as part of a team
- Willingness to take advice

More information

If you require further information or would like an informal to chat to discuss the above, please contact Clare.Cronk@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Website: https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/volunteers-needed-for-school-place-appeal-panels

Girlguiding
Over district

We help all girls know they can do anything.

We show girls from 4 to 18 a world of possibilities big and small. One where every girl can laugh and learn and be herself. Girlguiding is what each girl wants it to be. It might be the thrill of doing something for the first time. Songs around a campfire. The buzz of getting a new badge. Coming home exhausted and full of stories. It's a space where she can be herself, get creative, explore, and most of all have fun.

How can I get involved?

You choose the volunteer role that matches your skills and time available. You can be a leader, a helper, a treasurer, a fundraiser, an administrator, a trainer, the list goes on and on...

"We're awesome as we help girls to thrive and grow because we are all part of a huge family"
Volunteer, Bedfordshire

Are you interested to find out more? Get in touch:

caroline@overroad.co.uk

https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer

Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units in the area are recruiting volunteers.

You're amazing → Pass it on

PARISH & COUNTY NEWS

THERMAL IMAGING FOR A COSIER HOME IN CAMBS

Once again, we're delighted to offer residents and organisations across Cambridgeshire the opportunity to borrow and learn how to use a thermal imaging camera for free. Join a one-hour online training session to learn how to interpret thermal images, identify draughts, gaps in insulation, and heating problems, and to make your home cozier and more energy efficient. Great for homeowners and renters alike! We also encourage individuals, organizations and community groups to undertake training to survey multiple properties within their community.

In 2024, volunteers from communities across Cambridgeshire undertook surveys of 113 neighboring homes and community buildings, adding to the 325 properties that were surveyed by individuals who had attended the training for their own homes.

"Really useful tool for assessing the home's heat loss and for planning improvements" - Borrower

Thermal Imaging Training Dates:

Mon 9th February 7:30-8:30 pm

We only lend cameras to people who have attended the training. Loan periods are: Fri pm to Mon am, or Mon pm to Fri am, and cameras can be picked up from one of 18 volunteer camera hosts around South Cambs, Cambridge City and Huntingdonshire.

An excellent scheme - very much appreciate the opportunity to borrow the camera -thank you!

More information, and Interviews with experts, volunteers and organisers can be arranged on request.
Contact **Fran Sutton:** fran@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org 07713841391

Website:
https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/events/thermal-imaging-training-16/

SWAVESEY PARISH

Parish Council News November/December 2025

County Council Business

Highways maintenance is ongoing. CCC's capitally funded major highways projects for 2026/27 are now being assessed and the PC has submitted a list of roads requiring major work, including: Fen Drayton Rd, southern end of Boxworth End, Whitton Close, Market St (resurfacing and drainage work). These compete with submission for the whole of Cambridgeshire so there is a lot of competition for funding.

Traffic Calming Projects

- Speed reduction schemes were out for final consultation during Dec/Jan and we await the results and hopefully dates for when these will be installed.
- The LHI *(Local Highway Improvement)* application for funding for additional speed reduction measures for Station Rd-Over Rd was successful in October. This will provide two solar MVAS (speed monitor) units plus additional road markings to remind drivers of the speed limit. This will be installed in Spring-Summer 2026.
- The PC agreed to purchase 3 additional solar MVAS (speed monitor) units, to install permanently in Boxworth End and Ramper Rd.
- Speedwatch. More volunteers are required. Please contact us if you would like to help: clerk@swavesey-pc.gov.uk

Guided Busway fencing. Work continues on the provision of fencing along the length of the busway. During this time there are speed restrictions in place and diversions through villages.

The PC continues to liaise with our County Councillor to discuss all the outstanding issues. A monthly report from Cllr Chris Poulton is also published on our website.

District Council

The PC has accepted an SCDC offer of a Covid-19 Commemorative tree to plant in a public space, as part of the national day of reflection on Sunday 8th March 2026.

Planning

70 home site off Middle Watch (opp Ramper Rd) - The Parish Council continues to liaise with the contractor, CCC Highways and Planning Officers

COUNCIL NEWS

with regard to the impact of these works during construction on the village. Updates will be published on the Parish Council website as the project progresses.

Gtr Cambridge Draft Local Plan went out for public consultation during December and January. The Parish Council returned comments on this in relation to proposed development sites, as mentioned above. As well as raising concerns over increase in traffic, surface and foul water flows, flood risk and other issues.

Logistics Sites Proposals

During 2025 three large development site proposals came forward to Gtr Cambridge Planning at the Swavesey/Boxworth and Bar Hill junctions of the A14. These are in addition to one already going through planning for land behind and south of Cambridge Services plus an extension to Buckingway Business Park. Swavesey Parish Council continues to work alongside other local villages to raise objections and concerns over the proposals.

Public consultations have been and will be carried out by the developers involved in each site and we encourage you to attend these and return your comments and concerns.

Boxworth Gateway, Tritax Big Box & Cambridge25 Logistics Sites Proposals

Village Maintenance & Projects

Recreation Green – The Parish Council continues to work with the village football clubs to repair the damage done to the ground conditions following last year's extremely dry spring and summer. Please bear with us whilst these works take place, which has included having to cordon off some areas to protect them after work has been carried out.

Sportsfield Field Project - Alongside this, the Council continues to progress the project to turn the field at the end of Burgess Close into a community sports facility, which will include sports pitches, onsite parking as well as changing room facilities. We hope to be a position to start work on drainage, planning and design in the first half of 2026..

Ponds – Restoration and desilting works were carried out in Swan and School ponds during early December. Wildflower planting seeding will be carried out alongside Swan pond in early spring.

Further details on everything that is discussed at the Parish Council meetings can be found in the Minutes and on the Council's website at:-
www.swavesey-pc.gov.uk

Swavesey Parish Council Website: swavesey-pc.gov.uk		
Parish Councillors	**Telephone (01954)**	**E-mail address**
Doug Hunt (Chairman)	232478	dhunt@swavesey-pc.gov.uk
Colin Parsons (Vice-Chair)	610357	cparsons@swavesey-pc.gov.uk
Lisa Boyes	07747 002296	lboyes@swavesey-pc.gov.uk
James Dodson	230560	jdodson@swavesey-pc.gov.uk
Martin Johnston	200605	mjohnston@swavesey-pc.gov.uk
Warren Wright	203172	wwright@swavesey-pc.gov.uk
Jonathan Kerley	231304	jkerley@swavesey-pc.gov.uk
Rachel Vollerthun	07312 102526	rvollerthun@swavesey-pc.gov.uk
Sue Ellington	202923 / 07774 146331	sellington@swavesey-pc.gov.uk
Sue Rogers	0777 224 7673	srogers@swavesey-pc.gov.uk
Paul Twinn	01954 488578	ptwinn@swavesey-pc.gov.uk
Clerk: Linda Miller	202982 / 07458 302193	clerk@swavesey-pc.gov.uk
District Councillor: Sue Ellington	07774 146331	cllr.ellington@scambs.gov.uk
County Councillor: Chris Poulton Papworth & Swavesey Ward	Chris.Poulton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/county-councillors	
Memorial Hall Administrator: Nicole Mullee	07963 861791	memorialhall@swavesey.org.uk
Swavesey Parish Council meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month for Planning items and on the 4th Monday of each month for Full Council. All meetings are held in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. There is always a 10 minute public forum at the start of the meeting.		

New Weekly food waste collections

Starting in 2026, all households in South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge will receive a weekly food waste collection service. This is due to new national legislation requiring separate food waste collection.

Weekly food waste collections will be introduced in phases throughout 2026. Your collections *in Swavesey** begin in **September 2026**. You'll receive a letter in August with details and caddy delivery information. Closer to the time, you'll see collection dates appear on your bin collection schedule below. Schedules could be subject to change, so check back for further updates.

How the service will work

All residents will receive a small indoor kitchen caddy to collect food waste in. If you have your own blue, black and green bins, you'll receive a larger outdoor caddy for collection which should be placed next to your other bins on collection day. The outdoor caddies are animal-proof with lockable handles. Keep lids closed and avoid overfilling to reduce the chance of it tipping over.

If you live in flat, you will have a shared bin to empty your food waste into which will be stored with your other shared bins. In some cases where flats have insufficient space in the bin store, a separate bin housing will be installed in a communal location.

Assisted collection customers will automatically receive assisted food waste collections.

You'll receive a starter roll of caddy liners. These are plastic but do not affect the processing of the food waste as they are removed in the first stage of treatment. While reducing plastic is important, collecting food waste matters most. Plastic liners help prevent mess and smells and they are also a cost-effective option. When you have finished the roll of liners provided, we will not provide more. You can use any liner in your caddy, or none - if you're using plastic ones, you must be able to see the food waste through the liner so our crew can be reassured that no other waste is inside.

https://greatercambridgewaste.org/food-waste/weekly-food-waste-collections

** Details extracted from the above website using CB24 4QN as the location. Deputy Ed*

From Your D.C. Sue Ellington

Dear Residents

Happy New Year and a big thank you to the team which has enabled the production of this Meridian magazine. Long may it continue.

You will remember that the Government has decided to reorganise the local authorities. I won' t go into the different options for creating new Authorities details again but South Cambs District Council has submitted the business case proposal for Option B, which is based on a Cambridge City, SCDC, and related County Council areas.

The link to the document and all of the appendices is:-
https://www.scambs.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation

In case you're interested in next steps, the government has a helpful summary of the overall reorganisation process here:-

Summary of the local government reorganisation process - GOV.UK

You will have seen that the Local Authorities' minister has written to SCDC stating that it is not government policy for staff to work for 4 days and receive 5 days pay. The lead Councillor, Bridget Smith, is to meet the minister to discuss the current working arrangements at SCDC. But the Government cannot insist that they revert to a 5 day week.

If you want to renew your postal vote. The easiest way for a resident to re-apply is online at:-

www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote or email elections@scambs.gov.uk if you have any questions.

As always if I can help please phone 07774146331 or
email:- Cllr.Ellington@scambs.gov.uk

Services at St Andrew's

Please join us for worship at 11am on any Sunday morning including, on the fourth Sunday of the month, our All Together Worship Service. At 8pm on the first Thursday of every month, we have fifteen minutes of silence and prayer followed by Compline remembering the people of Ukraine and other countries affected by war. If there is a fifth Sunday in the month, you may find us worshipping in any of our four benefice churches.

You can find information about all our services and events on Facebook and online at A Church near You:-
https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2834/service-and-events/events-all/

Ministry Team:

Rev'd Stephen Dove (Team Rector): stephen@5folds.org.uk.
Rev'd Ed Green (Team Vicar): ed@5folds.org.uk
Canon Jan Payne (Licensed Lay Minister): jan.payne@northstowe.church
Colin Smith (Benefice Administrator): 01954 203459 admin@5folds.org.uk
Churchwardens: Jacqui Fuller: 01954 230774 and Bridget Lofts: 01954 231195

Diddy Disciples Sunday School

This is our Sunday School for younger children. We sing songs, draw and make things and most of all, learn about Jesus. We meet every Sunday at the back of church. Do join us.

Emmaus House Group

We are a small group of people who meet every other Wednesday morning on Zoom to learn more about God through studying the Bible. We choose our own subjects and ask lots of questions but don't always find the answers! More details from Nicky Carne: nicky_carne@hotmail.com or the churchwardens.

Craft Group

Our group meets every other Wednesday to work together on group activities; have you seen our decorations on the carpark cross? You can bring your own craft activity to work on or just come to enjoy the company over a hot drink and cake. Details from Jacqui Fuller: jacqui_fuller@hotmail.com

Compass Café "Encompasses the community"

Meet us at Swavesey's Community Café - Compass Café every third Thursday of the month, 10:30am – 12 noon. Enjoy our wonderful cakes and coffee.

Events at St Andrew's in 2026

Thank you for coming to support our events; it is always a pleasure to welcome you to St Andrew's.

Here are a few dates to put in your diaries:
Sunday, March 15th: Afternoon Tea on Mothering Sunday
Saturday, March 28th: Easter Fair with Easter Egg Tombola and Easter Egg Hunt
Good Friday, April 3rd: Come and help us make the Easter Garden to put in church
Saturday, May 16th: 10:00: Plant Sale
Saturday, June 27th: 2:00 – 4:00pm: Teddy Bear Zip Wire

Join us for Afternoon Tea on Mothering Sunday, March 15th

Memorial Hall
See social media for details.

BETHEL
BAPTIST CHURCH

Club Vintage - Wednesdays 2-4pm

A warm welcome awaits older people and the club is dementia-friendly. There is a small £3 weekly charge. Enjoy a rotating variety of activities such as chair-based exercise, singing, bible-based crafts, quizzes, games and entertainment from others.

Compass Café - Thursdays 10:30am-12pm

You will receive a very warm welcome at our community run cafe. Enjoy reasonably priced coffee, tea and homemade cakes.

LITTLE LIGHTS - Fridays 10am-12pm

Baby & toddler group. All are welcome, bumps, babies, toddlers, parents and carers. Drop in at anytime for as long as you need. Only £2 per family, including drinks & snacks for all! We hope you can come along and join us!

The Hub - Youth Group - Fridays 7-9pm

Open to all year 6 and secondary aged children. Come along and meet up with friends, chat, play games, listen to music and much more! Snack bar also available. £1 entry fee. Parents must complete a permission form.

Sunday Services - Sundays 10:45am

You are warmly invited to join us for our weekly services followed by coffee in our compass room. Our services are open to all and are family friendly with children's Sunday School groups for all ages! Every first Sunday of the month is our alternative all age, café-style service which include refreshments around tables, conversation and maybe even some crafts! We have a special Communion service once a month on the 3rd Sunday. At Bethel we are brought together by our Faith, but what truly makes us family is our passion to serve God and love one another through every season.

"Bring along your craft and share a cuppa!"
"I enjoy a biscuit and chat with friends over a nice hot drink!"
Craft & Chat
"It's great to see the crafts others are working on."
"It's a lovely, relaxing way to spend a Saturday morning with friends."
1ST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
10:00AM- 12:00PM
@ BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
SWAVESEY

CONTACT US

Pastor Bob - pastorbob@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk
Sue Hope (Secretary) - secretary@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk
Charlotte Holmár (Administrator) - admin@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk

www.bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk *www.facebook.co.uk/SwaveseyBethel*

Standing on the brink of time

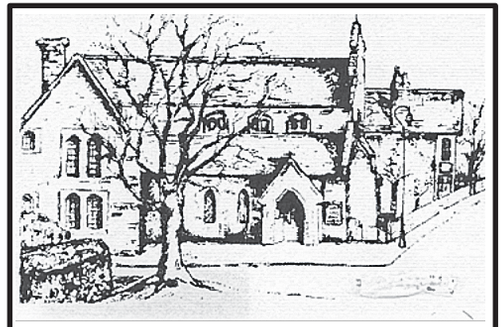
Seeing the start of a new year isn't just a countdown or a calendar flip; it should be that quiet moment when we realise that we have a blank page in time before us. Here is the opportunity to decide a change of direction, a shift of mindset, a swallowing of pride, maybe a determination to forgive, and move toward a life that has meaning, peace and purpose. It is obvious that we can't control everything that will happen in the next 12 months, but we can strive for change so that our lives and those around us benefit from our determination to live with short accounts and a positive outlook.

Think about those who have stood by you, supported you, or changed your life for the better. Your family that is a combination of shared history, inside jokes, long talks, and everyday love. Our friends that are the family we choose, the people who show up when life gets real and stay when things get messy. And those that are closest to us either present or gone from this world, with the love that at its best feels steady, safe, and endlessly exciting. All these have served to make us the person we now are, and all these should remind us that we should ever be reaching to realise our potential.

The new year can be a turning point, not because everything changes instantly, but because we can decide to take one step forward. 2026 can give us nothing, it is simply a point in time that issues an invitation to reflect on the past and to look forward, maybe even take a step of faith realising that we are part of something far greater than ourselves.

The kettle is on every Tuesday from 9-3 let's have a chat about it.

Pastor Bob
Bethel Baptist.



SACRED HEART OF JESUS
Roman-Catholic Parish
19 Needingworth Road, St Ives, Cambs. PE27 5JT

Priest in Charge: Fr Trindade J Monteiro

Tel: 01480 462 192
www.sacredheart-stives.org.uk
email: office@sacredheart-stives.org.uk

Mass Times:
Saturday 17.00 (Anticipatory)
Sunday 09.00 and 11.00

SACRED HEART RC PARISH HALL

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

Sacred Heart St Ives
19 Needingworth Rd, St. Ives,
Cambridgeshire, PE27 5JT

Suitable for Community Groups,
Conferences & Meetings,
Coffee mornings, Classes & Parties.

Our parish hall is now available to rent at £20 an hour An additional fee of £25 will be applied for use of the kitchen.
Guest WiFi available

Please enquiry on tel.:
(+44) 1480 462 192

e- mail:
office@sacredheart-stives.org.uk

Website:
www.sacredheart-stives.org.uk/the-church-hall

HOCKEYS
ESTABLISHED 1885

Thinking of a move? We are happy to offer you a free, no obligation valuation of your property.

Call our Cambridge office for a free valuation
(01223) 356054

Call our Willingham office for a free valuation
(01954) 260940

Community Groups & Charities

Swavesey Sustainability Hub	The Sustainability Hub is a community group that offers space and support for people to realise their ideas for a more sustainable way of life. Contact: rvollerthun@gmail.com Website: www.thesustainabilityhub.biz
Sheddit!	Sheddit! is the community shed for Swavesey and surrounding areas. The group works on a range of projects and welcome new members who enjoy making things from wood and metal. Contact: Phil Cohen 07957 422292 Website: https://shareborrowconnect.org/
Cam Sight	Cam Sight is a local charity which offers support to anyone with a visual impairment, along with their family and carers. We meet on the 4th Wednesday afternoon of each month in Bar Hill. For more information please telephone Joan in Bar Hill on 01954 200622 or Alison at Cam Sight on 01223 420033 or email alison@camsight.org.uk. For more info see:- www.camsight.org.uk
Cambridgeshire Hearing Help	CHH is a charity that helps people with hearing loss. Volunteers service NHS hearing aids and provide batteries and they attend Swavesey quarterly at Thistle Green. Advice on any aspects of hearing loss is available at a hearing help session or by calling the office on 01223 416141, E-mail: enquiries@cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk Website: cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk
Care Network	Care Network supports volunteers, encourages independence and develops good neighbour projects. We provide the Welcome Home from Hospital service across Cambridgeshire. Contact:- Care Network, 5 Broadway House, 149-151 St Neots Rd, Hardwick, Cambridge, CB23 7QJ (tel: 01954 211919). Website: care-network.org.uk/
Compass Cafe	Meets every Thursday morning from 10.30 until 12.00 at Bethel Baptist Church. Contact Sue Ellington on 01954 202923 or sue.ellington@virgin.net
Dog Lovers of Swavesey	Dog Lovers of Swavesey is a friendly group where anyone with a love for dogs is welcome with or without dog. Meetings are on the Recreation Green organised through the Facebook group at https://www.facebook.com/groups/dogloversofswavesey where we also exchange tips, ask for advice or have a laugh. Resources are gathered at https://dogloversofswavesey.co.uk/. Contact: Matt at matthewyoung1@btinternet.com or Anita at anita.faul@outlook.com" Tel 01954 232791
Swavesey Library	A volunteer run community library based in Swavesey Village College. We are able to providing a full range of library facilities being directly linked to the Cambridgeshire County Council library service. For more info see:- https://www.swavesey-pc.gov.uk/community/swavesey-your-library/
East Anglia's Children's Hospice (EACH)	Put your free time to good use and volunteer at East Anglia's Children's Hospice (EACH) in Milton. Volunteering at a children's hospice doesn't always mean care work and fundraising as there are also tasks such as admin and maintenance of the grounds. Contact:- Clare Bates on 01223 815134, Email: clare.bates@each.org.uk
OWLS Community Car Scheme	Run by DBS checked volunteers the scheme offers a door-to-door service, for medical or some social journeys, to people who are unable to access other forms of transport. Ring 07505 254363 to book a journey, find out more, or to volunteer as a driver Website: https://www.swavesey-pc.gov.uk/community/owls-community-car-scheme/

CLUB INFORMATION

Army Cadets UK	Swavesey Detachment, No 2 (Cromwell) Company, Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force meets each Tuesday evening at the Swavesey Village College from 7 pm. New recruits are welcomed from ages 12 years (year 8) to 18 years. www.armycadets.com/county/cambridgeshire-acf/
Swavesey Five-a-Side Football Club	Currently seeking new members for this long-established club. We play each Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30pm in the new sports hall at Swavesey Village College. Enquiries to Stewart Smith (07803 050234).
Swavesey Girlguiding	Unit / Evening / Contact 1st Swavesey Rainbows / Thursdays / caroline@overroad.co.uk 1st Swavesey Brownies / Mondays / swaveseybrownies@outlook.com 2nd Swavesey Brownies / Wednesdays / secondswaveseybrownies@outlook.com 1st Swavesey Guides / Thursdays / swaveseyguides@gmail.com 1st Swavesey Rangers / Thursdays / swaveseyrangers@gmail.com
Swavesey Spartans	Swavesey Spartans (swaveseyspartans.co.uk) is a Chartered Standard Football Club affiliated to Cambridgeshire Football Association. The club delivers football for children aged 6 and above. The club helps with the transition to open age football. Colts football ceases at the end of a player's Under 18 season. Open age football for men in Swavesey is available through Swavesey Institute FC (separate entry in this section of the Meridian). Swavesey Spartans FC have an open age football team for ladies playing league games on a Sunday. For more information about Spartans please contact Paul Clarke (swavesey.chairperson@gmail.com) or Mrs Paula Land (swavesey.secretary@gmail.com
1st Swavesey Scout Group	All sections meet at the Scout Hut on the SVC site **Beavers** Day: Thursday 18:00 to 19:00 Contact: John Pawson - Beaver Leader john.pawson@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk **Cubs** Day: Tuesday 18:15 to 19:30 Contact: Steven Wilson - Cub Leader steven.wilson@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk **Scouts** Day: Wednesday 19:00 to 20:30 Contact : Marian Bentley - Scout Leader Marian.Bentley@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk For any other enquiries please email info@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk
Swavesey Early Years and Playwork Centre	Swavesey Early Years and Playwork Centre are based in their own purpose-built unit on the primary school site. It comprises Early Years children (aged from 2 years and 6 Months) between 9am and 3pm (formerly Swavesey Pre School) and we provide activities and care for primary school aged children before and after school. Breakfast Club runs from 7.30 am to 9am and After School Club from 3.15pm to 6pm. For information please contact Carol Panther (Early Years and Playwork Manager) by email: eyandp@swavesey.cambs.sch.uk or by phone (01954) 273312 Ext 2 or 07803 812221.
Swavesey Community Choir	If you enjoy singing and having fun then come and join Swavesey Community Choir. We meet every Wednesday in term time in Fen Drayton Village Hall, Cootes Lane, Fen Drayton from 7.45pm - 9.30pm. You don't need to be able to read music and no auditions needed, tenor and bass voices particularly welcome. For further details contact Julie Holmes julieholmes78@gmail.com Website: www.swaveseycommunitychoir.co.uk

British Tang Soo Do Institute	British Tang Soo Do Institute practices the Korean martial art of Tang Soo Do. Our club training covers self defence techniques and many aspects of fitness including flexibility, coordination, conditioning, balance and discipline helping to promote a healthy lifestyle. For further information please contact Master Jeff Cockram on 07863 345681 or jeff@btsdi.co.uk Or see our website: www.btsdi.com
Swavesey Tang Soo Do Club	Swavesey Tang Soo Do have classes on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Classes are in the primary school main hall at 6pm. The contact details are Master Louise Morton on 07919 050261 or email enquiries@swaveseytsd.co.uk. The website is www.swaveseytsd.co.uk
Allotments in Swavesey	Down Hale Road towards the windmill and on the right there are 61 plots, mostly 150 sq yds (125 m2) in area, backed up by eight water tanks. Large yields of a wide range of high quality vegetable, fruit and flower crops can be grown successfully. If you are interested in joining the waiting list contact Val Sage Tel (01954) 230853
British Legion	For information contact:- Secretary - Angela Dye. (01954) 277453. email: dyeangela0@gmail.com
Swavesey Badminton Club	Located at the Swavesey Village College Sports Centre.The Club offers a high standard of play at club nights on Tuesdays 7pm to 8pm and on Fridays from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. We play competitive badminton in the Cambridge leagues and run men's, women's and mixed teams.Contact Helen Taylor on (01954) 230997 Email: enquiries@swaveseybadminton.net Website: www.swaveseybadminton.net
Swavesey Billiards and Snooker Club	For information/membership please contact Graeme Waites (01954 230113) Email graham.waites566@btinternet.com
Swavesey Camera Club	At Swavesey Camera Club we are proud to cater for photographers of all standards. For more information visit our website at:- www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk. We meet every Thursday, 7.00 - 9.30pm, 'Carole Shaw Room, SVC. Non-members welcome - £4 charge (first visit free). For further details please ring Simon Shore (01954) 230848
Swavesey Squash Club	Swavesey Squash Club has three international standard squash courts, in our recently refurbished clubhouse, on the Swavesey Village College site. The club has a number of weekly sessions running, suitable for beginners, improvers, and more advanced players. Unlimited use of the facility from £17 a month. A welcoming and active community club with social events and opportunities for competition. Visit our website for more details or contact Ali Loke on 07776 176866/ ali@alilokesquash.com. www.swaveseysquash.com
Swavesey & Over Cycling Club	We meet regularly throughout the year, with rides most weekends and also weekdays on spring and summer evenings. As a Cycling UK affiliated club our goal is to explore a joint passion for cycling in a safe, inclusive and social way. We aim to organise events throughout the year from day & weekend rides in the UK and long weekend trips in Europe. Contact: John Craven Email: socccommittee@gmail.com Facebook: https://bit.ly/3GJCksZ_SOCC or Website: https://swaveseyovercc.wixsite.com/socc

Fireflies Netball Club	Friendly local club, everyone welcome, from back-to-netballers to seasoned players. We have teams playing in CDNL and Fenland Netball leagues. Training is on Tuesdays 7-8:30pm at Northstowe Secondary School. First month is free. £15 per month thereafter. Contact firefliesnetballclub@gmail.com for more information.
Over & Willingham Cricket Club	We have 2 open age (adult) cricket teams in the Cambridgeshire Saturday afternoon league playing 40 over cricket between the start of May and the end of. August. If you are interested in joining our club, please get in touch with one of the club officials, come along to one of our training sessions or approach any club member on our matchdays (Saturday's). Contact Jane Reeson if you are interested. email - reesonhkx46k@aol.com; Telephone 07768 540146; or Facebook - Over and Willingham CC, or Website - overandwillingham.play-cricket.com
Swavesey Music School	Meets every Saturday of term time at Swavesey Village College. For further details see: www.swaveseymusic.co.uk/
Swavesey District Bridleway Association	A liaison group representing local horse riders whose main aim is to protect existing and create safe new horse riding links between all local villages. New members welcome. Regular Newsletter/ Social events calendar. Please contact Sue Rogers (01954) 232758
Swavesey & District History Society	Meet every third Tuesday in the month, 7.30pm, Carole Shaw room, SVC. Contact Carolyn Redmayne, Secretary (01954) 230037
Swavesey Institute Football Club	Swavesey Institute FC have 2 teams in the Cambs County Saturday afternoon leagues. For information about the club or if you are interested in playing open age (adult) football for the village please contact Martin Pickering on 07737 391445
Linedance	Linedance classes held on Wednesday mornings at the Bethel Baptist Church 9-30 to 11-30 am. Beginners always welcome. Contact Deborah Walker (01954) 231382 Email: deborahwalker105@talktalk.net
Swavesey & Over Conservation Society	At the moment we organise interesting walks If you need a lift: Phone: Trevor Grange - 01954 230119 or Pat Miles - (01954) 780485. Guests Are Always Welcome!
Swavesey & Over Tennis Club	Swavesey & Over Tennis Club: Club nights are Mondays and Fridays, 6.30-8.30pm. We welcome new members - further information our website https://swaveseyovertennis.wixsite.com/sotc, or you can email us on SwaveseyOverTennis@gmail.com, or call Steve 07393 825027 or Melanie 07453 523999.
Swavesey RADSoc	Friendly local drama group staging two or three productions a year.New members always welcome.Contact: Nathalie Balzano: nathaliewoodward@hotmail.com Visit our website at www.swaveseyradsoc.org.uk
Swavesey W.I.	We meet every second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. New members are always welcome to enjoy a variety of invited speakers and have a chat and cup of tea/coffee afterwards. For further information contact Margaret Guest tel (01954) 202757
Women's Walking	Women's Walking on Mondays and Fridays at 10:00am. Meet on Market Street green. Walk for approximately one hour on pathways in and around Swavesey. A chance to exercise and chat. - Reasonably robust footwear recommended. All welcome.

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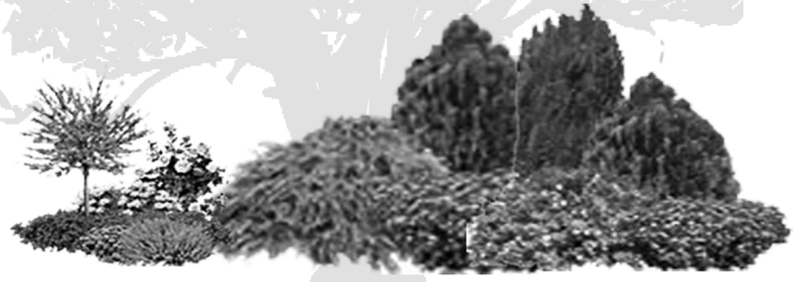

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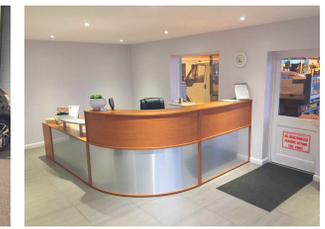

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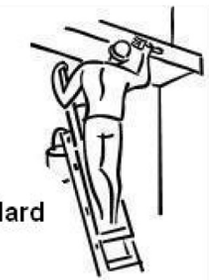

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It is hoped this will avoid major events clashing on the same day. Please send to the Editor, editor@swaveseymeridian.org.uk

Event _____

Location _____ Date _____ Time _____

Contact Name _____ Tel No. _____

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